

# The first record of the dragonfly *Dendroaeschna conspersa* from Victoria

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## Introduction

The larva of the dragonfly *Dendroaeschna conspersa* (Tillyard 1906) was described by Tillyard (1916) from specimens collected from streams near Sydney, New South Wales. Watson (1974) expanded the known distribution to include north-east and south-east New South Wales, and south-east Queensland (Watson 1977).

This paper reports the first record of *Dendroaeschna conspersa* in Victoria, a discovery which necessitates some modification to the odonate larval key (Hawking 1986). A new couplet is provided for inclusion in the key along with additional information on specific characters to assist in identification of the larvae.

Four larvae of *Dendroaeschna conspersa* were collected from the La Trobe River at Rosedale (38°10'S., 146°47'E.). A specimen was collected by D. P. Robinson on 6.1.1983 and three more by J. H. Hawking on 4.2.85. The larvae were found in crevices on submerged logs, in a slow flowing section of the stream. The larvae were compared with Tillyard's original material (Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra) and positive identification was confirmed by G. Theischinger. The specimens are held at the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre.

## Addendum to Hawking (1986)

The second half of couplet 26 (25) of Hawking (1986) should now go to a new couplet, 31.1.

31.1 (26) Posterior corner of head with large postocular lobes (Fig. 1)  
.....*Dendroaeschna conspersa*  
Posterior corner of head rounded (Fig. 2) or jagged (Fig. 3) .....32

## Specific characters

Head with prominent eyes; posterior corner of head with large postocular lobes. Labium flat; palps with 24-26 teeth (final instar larvae), end tooth short, movable hook strong; lateral margin of prementum and mentum with stout setae. Strong lateral abdominal spines on segments 6-9. No dorsal abdominal hooks. Epiproct marginally longer than half the paraproct length; cerci short, c. 1/3 length of the paraprocts.

## Discussion

*D. conspersa* is presently the only known Victorian aeshnid whose larvae have large postocular lobes. The lobes are very distinctive, being produced into pointed projections which extend out from the posterior lateral margins of the head. This feature plus the other characters should be adequate to identify the larvae.

## Acknowledgements

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## References

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Fig. 1. *Dendroaeschna conspersa*, dorsal view of the head

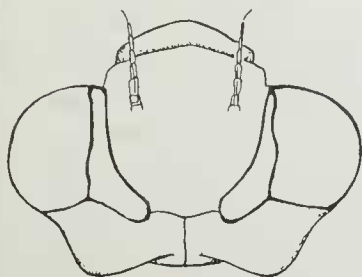


Fig. 2. *Austroaeschna pulchra*, dorsal view of the head

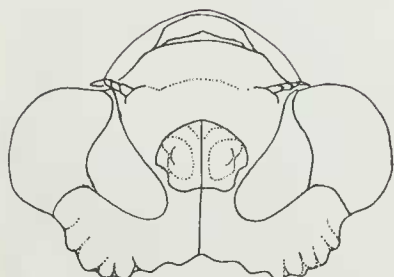


Fig. 3. *Telephlebia brevicauda*, dorsal view of the head

Watson, J. A. L. (1977). The distributions of the Australian dragonflies (Odonata): first supplement. *J. Aust. Entomol. Soc.* 16: 277-79.